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We claim:

1. A variable length cutting device, comprising:

a cutting cylinder;

a transfer cylinder configured to cooperate with said cutting cylinder for cutting a ribbon into signatures having a desired cutoff length, said transfer cylinder having a central cylinder axis and a circumferential region; and

an adjustable diameter portion disposed in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder, said adjustable diameter portion being connected to said transfer cylinder and being movable in a direction toward and away from said central cylinder axis for adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures.

2. The cutting device according to claim 1, wherein said adjustable diameter portion is an adjustable roller movable in the direction toward and away from said central cylinder axis.

3. The cutting device according to claim 1, including one of a linear jack and an eccentric jack connected to said adjustable diameter portion for moving said adjustable diameter portion toward and away from said central cylinder axis.

51502 4. The cutting device according to claim 1, including a gripper and a tucking blade each connected to said transfer cylinder and disposed in said circumferential region at a fixed distance from said central cylinder axis, and said adjustable diameter portion being located between said gripper and said tucking blade.

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5. The cutting device according to claim 1, including a cutting blade fixed to said cutting cylinder and a cutting ledge disposed in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder for cooperating with said cutting blade, said cutting cylinder and said transfer cylinder rotating in synchronism.

6. The cutting device according to claim 1, wherein said transfer cylinder has a constant angular speed.

7. The cutting device according to claim 1, including a gripper and a cutting ledge each connected to said variable diameter portion, said gripper and said cutting ledge movable toward and away from said central cylinder axis together with said variable diameter portion.

8. A variable length cutoff folder, comprising:

a cutting cylinder;

a transfer cylinder configured to cooperate with said cutting cylinder for cutting a ribbon into signatures having a desired cutoff length, said transfer cylinder having a central cylinder axis and a circumferential region;

an adjustable diameter portion disposed in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder, said adjustable diameter portion connected to said transfer cylinder and being movable in a direction toward and away from said central cylinder axis for adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures;

a jaw cylinder having a cylinder jacket and a jaw provided on said cylinder jacket; and

a tucking blade provided in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder and cooperating with said jaw for folding the signatures into said jaw.

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